

Osama bin Laden applauded the 9/11 attacks. Such an act of deliberate killing of innocent lives deserves retaliation. It is good that bin Laden is dead and justice is served.

Targeted retribution is far superior to wars of aggression and nation-building.

In 2001 I supported giving the president the authority to pursue those responsible for the vicious 9/11 attacks. Using this authority as an opportunity to pursue nation-building and remaking the Middle East was cynical and dangerous, as the past ten years have proven.

The sad tragedy is that it took ten years, trillions of dollars, tens of thousands of American casualties and many thousands of innocent lives to achieve our mission of killing one evil person.

A narrow, targeted mission under these circumstances is far superior to initiating wars against countries not involved in the 9/11 attacks.

This was the reason I emphasized at the time the principle of Marque and Reprisal, permitted to us by the US Constitution for difficult missions such as we faced. I am convinced that this approach would have achieved our goal much sooner and much cheaper.

The elimination of Osama bin Laden should now prompt us to bring our troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq. Al Qaeda was never in Iraq and we were supposedly in Afghanistan to get Osama bin Laden. With bin Laden gone, there is no reason for our presence in the region – unless indeed it was all about oil, nation-building, and remaking the Middle East and Central Asia.

Hopefully bin Laden does not get the last laugh. He claimed the 9/11 attacks were designed to:

- 1) get the US to spread its military dangerously and excessively throughout the Middle East;
- 2) cause political dissention within the United States – some 70 percent of Americans now believe we should leave Afghanistan yet both parties seem determined to stay;

3) bankrupt the United States through excessive military spending as he did to the Soviets.

The best thing we could do is prove bin Laden to be a false prophet.

We must learn from this recent history.

Tragically, one result may be the acceptance of torture as a legitimate tool for pursuing our foreign policy. A free society, calling itself a republic, should never succumb to such evil.

Foreign aid to Pakistan, though bin Laden was safely protected for ten years in Pakistan, should make us question the wisdom of robbing American citizens to support any government around the world with foreign aid.

Our failed foreign policy is reflected in our bizarre relationship with Pakistan. We bomb them with our drones, causing civilian casualties, we give them billions of dollars in foreign aid, and Pakistan protects America's enemy number one for a decade.

It is time to consider a sensible non-interventionist foreign policy as advised by our Founders and authorized by our Constitution. We would all be the better off for it.